Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

SECRETKHARTOUM 2749

AF/E FOR AMBASSADOR BREWER FROM COUNTRY TEAM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, PGOV SU

SUBJECT: SUDAN SINCE THE COUP ATTEMPT-INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: BOGOSIAN-BREWER LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 80, 1976

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: THIS IS FIRST OF BTREE CABLES WHICH WILL DISCUSS INTERNAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS AND SUDAN'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SINCE COUP ATTEMPT LAST JULY. OUR VIEWS REGARDING IMPLICATIONS FOR US WILL ALSO BE REPORTED. CABLES ARE BEING SENT NOW TO COINCIDE WITH AMBASSADOR BREWER'S CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON. SINCE JULY COUP ATTEMPT INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION HAS BEEN ACTIVE. THERE HAS BEEN A MAJOR REORGANIZATION OF SECRET

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GOS. IN ADDITION, THERE HAS BEEN COMBINATION OF

TIGHTER SECURITY WITH PROMISE OF GREATER POLITICAL PARTICIPATION. NIMEIRI AND HIS CHIEF LIEUTENANTS HAVE EMPHASIZED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND THEY HAVE MADE STRONG EFFORT TO BURNISH REGIME'S IMAGE IN PROVINCES. END SUMMARY.

- 2. SINCE PRESENT REGIME HAS BEEN IN POWER AND PARTICULARLY OVER LAST COUPLE OF YEARS, GOS HAS BEEN GUIDED BY THREE FUNDAMENTAL IMPERATIVES, VIZ.: TO KNIT THE COUNTRY TOGETHER PARTICULARLY BY INTEGRATING THE SOUTHERN REGION INTO THE NATION: TO DEVELOP THE COUNTRY ECONOMICALLY AND TO PROVIDE SECURITY. AT ANY GIVEN TIME THE GOS IS OCCUPIED IN PURSUIT OF THESE IMPERATIVES, BUT SINCE THE ATTEMPTED COUP JULY 2-4, THERE IS CLEARLY A FEELING OF INTENSIFIED URGENCY AMONG NIMEIRI AND HIS COLLEAGUES IN EACH AREA. SOUTH AND ARMY REMJUIDRC STRONGLY LOYAL DURING EMERGENCY, AND NIMEIRI HAS STRESSED SINCE THEN THAT COUP LEADERS UNDERESTIMATED NATIONAL COHESIONS THAT EXISTS. SIMI-LARALY HE HAS PLACED GREAT PUBLIC EMPHASIS ON SUDAN'S CONTINUING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. NEW MOVES HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO IMPROVE SECURITY.
- 3. MOST SIGNIFICANT HAS BEEN A MAJOR REORGANIZATION OF THE GOS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN PLANNED EVEN BEFORE THE COUP OCCURRED. IN EFFECT NIMEIRI HAS TRIED TO REMOVE HIMSELF. AT LEAST COMPARED TO THE PERIOD PRIOR TO THE CHANGE, FROM DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THE COUNTRY. NOW ALTHOUGH HE REMAINS AT THE TOP AS THE UNDISPUTED LEADER OF THE SUDAN, HE HAS UNDER HIM THREE WINGS EACH HEADED BY A MAN DOING WHAT PREVIOUSLY NIMEIRI HAD DONE HIMSELF. THERE IS A PRIME MINISTER, RASHID AL-TAHER. WHOSE JOB IT IS TO ADMINISTER THE GOS AND IF POSSIBLE MAKE IT RUN MORE SMOOTHLY. THERE IS A MINISTER OF DEFENSE, CHIEF OF STATT LT. GEN. BESHIR MOHAMED ALI RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY. THERE IS A NEW SYG OF THE SSU, ABUL GASSIM, ONE OF THE ORIGINAL NIMEIRI RCC MEMBERS. HE PRESUMABLY WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR "POLITICS." OTHER CABINET CHANGES ARE LIKELY, AND THERE ARE SOME WHO PREDICT THAT ANY SECRET

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OF THE THREE LEADERS MENTIONED ABOVE MAY SUFFER POLITICAL ECLIPSE BEFORE LONG. HOWEVER, THAT MAY BE NIMEIRI'S IDEA; OTHERS BELOW HIM WILL COME AND GO, BUT HE WILL REMAIN.

4. MEANWHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CONTRADICTORY TENDENCIES LOCALLY. ON THE ONE HAND LARGE NUMBER OF EXECUTIONS RESULTING FROM SECURITY TRIALS WHICH HAVE

TAKEN PLACE SINCE COUPE ATTEMPT REVEALED THAT NIMEIRI WOULD BE TOUGH INDEED WITH THOSE FOUND GUILTY OF ATTEMPTING TO UNSEAT HIM. ON OTHER HAND THERE APPARENTLY WILL BE A MUCH MORE OPEN PROCESS OF NOMINATING AND ELECTING SSU LEADERSHIP CULMINATING WITH UECOND SSU CONFERENCE HERE NEXT FEBRUARY. IN MEANTIME NIMEIRI APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO DIVIDE THE OPPOSITION (SEPTEL) AND HE IS MAKING A MAJOR PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT. HIS OWN APPARENTLY VERY SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE SOUTHERN REGION AND VISITS BY ABUL GASSIM AND OTHERS AROUND THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN AIMED AT ASSURING EVERYONE THAT REGIME REMAINS STRONG AND STRONGLY CARES ABOUT ENTIRE POPULATION OF SUDAN. BOGOSIAN

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